

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A pallet container configured to enclose one or more liquid filled plastic containers, the pallet container including a connection assembly (5) comprising a plurality of first elongate elements (2) and a plurality of second elongate elements (3) forming a grid structure (4) connected to one another at an intersection (4), the first element (2) comprising a tube and defining at least one receiving opening (6) through which the second element (3) is passed, ~~and characterised in that~~ wherein the portion of the first element (2) defining the periphery of the receiving opening (6) protrudes inwards into the tube to define a collar (7) surrounding the second element (3), to support the second element, to provide a pivot surface about which the second element can bend such that the second element is more likely to bend than to break, and to spread the dynamic forces between the first and second elements to prevent a knife edge contact between the first and second elements.

2. (Currently Amended) The assembly (5) as claimed in Claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the first element (2) defines two aligned receiving openings (6) through which the second element (3) is passed, the portions of the first element (2) defining the peripheries of both of the receiving openings (6) protruding inwards into the tube to define two collars (7) surrounding the second element (3).

3. (Currently Amended) The assembly (5) as claimed in Claim 1 or Claim 2, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein an inner dimension of each collar (7) is dimensioned with respect to an outer dimension of the second element (3) so as to provide a frictional fit of the two elements (2, 3).

4. (Currently Amended) The assembly (5) as claimed in Claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the first element (2) has been drilled to define the receiving opening (6), the diameter (D2) of the drilled aperture (11) being less than the diameter (d2) of the second elongate element (3).

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5. (Currently Amended) The assembly (5) as claimed in Claim 4, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the drilled aperture (11) was punched to deform the periphery of the aperture (11) so that it is folded inwards into the tube to form the collar (7) and to increase the diameter (D2) of the aperture (11) to that (D3) of the receiving opening (6).

6. (Currently Amended) The assembly (5) as claimed in Claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the inner surface of the first element (2) is provided with at least one ridge (9), the apex of which lies close to or contacts the outer surface of the second element (3) at a position (P1).

7. (Currently Amended) The assembly (5) as claimed in Claim 1 or 6, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the first and second elongate elements (2, 3) are connected to one another at one or more positions (P1) in the region of their intersection (4).

8. (Currently Amended) The assembly (5) as claimed in Claim 7 when dependent on Claim 6, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein a connection position (P1) is formed where the outer surface of the second element (3) lies opposed to the inner surface of the first element (2) at the apex of the ridge (9).

9. (Currently Amended) The assembly (5) as claimed in Claim 7, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the first and second elongate elements (2, 3) are made of metal and are connected to one another at said one or more positions (P1) by welding.

10. (Currently Amended) The assembly (5) as claimed in Claim 7, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the first and second elongate elements (2, 3) are made of a plastics material and are connected at said one or more positions (P1) by ultrasonic welding, induction welding or melt bonding.

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11. (Currently Amended) The assembly (5) as claimed in Claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the first elongate element (2) is tubular with a substantially circular, elliptical or ovoid cross-section.

12. (Currently Amended) The assembly (5) as claimed in Claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the second elongate element (3) is tubular with a substantially circular or oval cross-section.

13. (Currently Amended) The assembly (5) as claimed in Claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the diameter (d2) of the second element (3) is smaller by between 20% to 30% than the diameter (d1) of the first element (2).

14. (Currently Amended) The grid structure (1) comprising a plurality of first elongates, tubular elements (2) arranged in parallel and in a spaced relationship with respect to one another, a plurality of second elongate elements (3) arranged in parallel and in a spaced relationship with respect to one another, the first and second elements (2, 3) intersecting and being connected to one another by means of at least one connection assembly as claimed in Claim 1.